

March 2, 2015

Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

*Re: Testimony for the Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee Hatchery Funding*

Dear Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee members:

I am a middle school science teacher at Hartland School and a resident of East Hartland, CT. I am writing to you to request reinstatement of the \$195,000 in the budget needed to run the Kensington Hatchery. Why?

Hartland School is participating, for the third year, in the Salmon-in-Schools program. This amazing program has 60 participating schools, reaches over 6,000 students in Connecticut and is run entirely by volunteers. Students in our school, grades 3 & 6, are rearing Atlantic salmon in our classrooms. We have purchased over \$2,000 of equipment, built two chilled tanks, and greeted 200 eggs in each tank with awe in December. Our students measure water temperature every day, watch the eggs hatch into alevin, and eagerly await the end of April when we release them to the Farmington River Watershed.

As part of the science curriculum, our students learn about the life cycle of salmon, habitats and species adaptations, predator-prey relationships, the importance of watersheds and estuaries, and how human activities in our own backyard can impact Long Island Sound. Our students are finding a connection to Connecticut's precious estuary even though Hartland is 80 miles from the sound. To further that connection, our students will take a trip to Project Oceanology later this spring to see firsthand how our watershed, our Salmon and our daily activities connect to Long Island Sound. They will be able to imagine our salmon swimming down the Farmington River, to the Connecticut River, out to Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, only to return in a few years from now and spawn in the same river they came from.

The Salmon-in-Schools program is exactly what our students need to find a connection to learning beyond the classroom walls, to excite, to motivate, and to inspire them to become curious and concerned about the world around them. This is what education is in its best form. Sadly, this phenomenal learning opportunity will come to an end in Hartland and the 60 other schools if the funding for Kensington Hatchery is cut.

The \$195,000 needed for the Kensington Hatchery is a minimal amount in the budget but monumental in terms of its impact on learning. Please support education and our students. Do the right thing. ***Please reinstate the \$195,000 needed for the Kensington Hatchery.*** Thank you.

Sincerely,

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cc:

Mr. Fred Jones, President, Hartland Land Trust  
Mr. Richard G. Bell, Vice President, Connecticut River Salmon Association